THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by UGC, the Commission has received a request for the release of special grants outside the plan grant to the Punjabi University, Patiala for replacement of equipments, books & Journals etc. that were damaged during the recent floods. The Commission has approved, in principle, to allocate Rs. 20 lakhs to the University for the above purpose and has requested it to send a detailed pro-\ posal in this regard. Earlier the Commission had advised all the Universities including Punjabi University, Patiala to *let.* their assets insured against loss hie to natural calamities including floods. The University has now informed that it lad insured its assets for all other natural calamities except floods because the area *was* not flood prone.

Post Graduate Diploma in Computer in Indlra Gandhi National Open Universityi.

2157. SHRI IQBAL STNGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to launch a oast-graduate diploma course in computer in the Indira Gandhi National Open University-,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what minimum qualification had been fixed for the same-

(d) by when ,the course will be available to students in the university;

(e) whether it is a fact that there will bo an n*rance test for the same; and

(f) if so. the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) According to the information fur-i nished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the university proposes to launch a Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA). The programme will consist of the following six courses and can be completed in a minimum period of one year or a maximum period of three years.

1. Computer Fundamentals
2. Introduction to Software.
3. File Structure and programming in COBBOL.
4. Data Structures through PASCAL
5. Elements of Systems Analysis and Design.
6. Introduction to Database Management System.

(c) The minimum qualification prescribed for admission to the Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications is a Barchelor's Degree in any subject after 10 plus *1* or its equivalent with mathematics as one of the subjects. No age limit is prescribed for admission.

(d) The programme is likely to commence from July, 1994.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The entrance test will be designed to test the arithmatical and mathematical ability of the candidates at 10 plus 2 level and also to test their ability to identify patterns, make logical decisions and comprehend diagrams and symbols besides general awareness. An entrance test is being held as the University proposes to limit the admissions *to* about 40 students each at 25 Study Centres in the country which are equipped with computer infrastructure